

Application #09/772,172

Cartier

**In the claims:**

Claims 1 - 10 (canceled).

1           11. (new) An ice breaker mat comprising:  
2                       a substantially flat compressible core constructed of a material that  
3                       maintains its compressibility in sub-freezing temperatures;  
4                       a waterproof flexible cover folded in half, each half being slightly larger than  
5           said core, said cover being of a material that retains its flexibility in sub-freezing  
6           temperature;  
7                       said core being positioned within said folded cover with the peripheral edges of  
8           said cover, not including the folded edge, being sealed to each other to provide a snug,  
9           airtight enclosure for said core;  
10                      said cover being of a dark, sun-absorbing color and having a finely textured  
11           non-slip pattern over its entire outer surface so that said mat is reversible in use;  
12                      whereby when ice or frozen snow covers said mat, the weight of a person  
13           standing thereon causes the mat to compress, thus cracking the ice or frozen snow to  
14           facilitate removal thereof from the mat.

1           12. (new) The mat of claim 11 wherein said core is coated with an adhesive  
2           material that secures the core to said cover to prevent relative movement therebetween.

1           13. (new) The mat of claim 11 wherein the color of said cover is black.

1           14. (new) The mat of claim 11 wherein said cover is made of a polyvinyl chloride  
2           material and said core is made of a urethane foam material.

1           15. (new) The mat of claim 11 further comprising means for securing said mat to  
2           the horizontal portions of a flight of outdoor stairs.